

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2805

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1695

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINS, GR, US

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF WELCH MURDER

REFS: (A) ATHENS 717, (B) ATHENS 1194

1. I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY MEETING WITH FONMIN BITSIOS TODAY TO MENTION THAT YESTERDAY MARKED THE SECOND MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF RICHARD WELCH'S MURDER AND THAT THUS FAR NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN GREECE. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT I WAS NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE GREEK AUTHORITIES WHO CONTINUED TO SHOW US EVERY COOPERATION BOTH IN PURSUING THIS INVESTIGATION AND IN TRYING TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SECURITY FOR US OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE. RATHER, I SIMPLY WANTED TO REFLECT MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT SO LITTLE PROGRESS SO FAR AND TO INQUIRE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING MORE THE GOG COULD DO OR THOUGHT THAT THE USG COULD DO TO HELP WITH THIS INVESTIGATION. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I SAID, WE WANTED TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOG CONSIDER A NEW ROUND OF PUBLICIZING THE REWARD MONEY AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO WELCH'S ASSASSINS.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE TOO WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH
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RESULTS THUS FAR. HE SAID HE HAD NOT WANTED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH ME AGAIN SINCE I HAD GOTTEN SO "CROSS" WITH

HIM THE LAST TIME HE HAD DONE SO (WHEN, IT SEEMED TO ME
AT THE TIME, HE HAD MADE INSULTING INSINUATIONS ABOUT
MRS. WELCH AND HER "SUDDEN" DEPARTURE FROM GREECE).
BITSIOS SAID HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT THE GOG WAS PRE-
PARED TO DO ANYTHING WITHIN REASON TO TRY AND IDENTIFY
WELCH'S MURDERS AND BRING THEM TO JUSTICE. HE SAID
THEY WOULD GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO A NEW ROUND OF PUBLICITY
ON THE QUESTION OF THE REWARD. WE ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY
THE RECENT ARREST IN CAIRO OF A POSSIBLE SUSPECT AND
THE INTERROGATION OF HIM WHICH WAS NOW TAKING PLACE. WE
AGREED TO STAY IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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